

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-15. (Cancelled)

16. **(New)** In a computer system including a computer having a processor and memory, a method of creating a clinical reference material on a desired topic, the method comprising:

receiving a hierarchy of medical data from an author, the hierarchy of medical data including:

a plurality of diagnoses;

a plurality of anatomical regions;

a plurality of pathologies; and

relational data describing relationships between the diagnoses, anatomical regions, and pathologies, each diagnosis defining at least one medical condition that is associated with at least one anatomical region and pathology;

storing the hierarchy of medical data in a relational database in the memory of the computer, wherein the hierarchy of medical data is organized according to the relational data;

receiving diagnosis information from the author for each of the plurality of diagnoses, wherein the diagnosis information describes general characteristics of each of the plurality of diagnoses;

storing the diagnosis information of each of the plurality of diagnoses in the relational database with the corresponding diagnosis in the plurality of diagnoses;

receiving a plurality of images and text relating to a particular case from the author, the images and text being associated with a particular diagnosis stored in the relational database;

storing the plurality of images and text relating to the particular case in the relational database such that the images and text are associated with the particular diagnosis;

receiving a first request from a user for medical reference data on a desired topic;

retrieving the requested medical reference data from the relational database, wherein the medical reference data include at least some of the plurality of images and text, diagnosis information, and medical data related to the first request from the relational database stored in the memory of the computer;

presenting the requested medical reference data to the user in a navigable user interface, wherein the navigable user interface is presented on a display of a user computer according to the hierarchy of medical data;

receiving a second request for clinical reference material from the user via the navigable user interface, wherein the clinical reference material includes a selected subset of the medical reference data in a requested format;

reformatting the selected subset of the medical reference data received by the author into the requested format requested by the user to form the requested clinical reference material; and

sending the requested clinical reference material to the user in the requested format.

17. **(New)** The method of claim 16, further including the step of allowing the author or another entity to review the hierarchy of medical data prior to storing it in the relational database.

18. **(New)** The method of claim 16, wherein the requested clinical reference material is a printed book.

19. **(New)** The method of claim 16, wherein the requested clinical reference material is an electronic book.

20. **(New)** The method of claim 16, wherein the medical data is created by the author using one or more graphical user interfaces.

21. **(New)** The method of claim 16, wherein the diagnosis information is created by the author using one or more graphical user interfaces.

22. **(New)** The method of claim 16, wherein plurality of images and text relating to a particular case is created by the author using one or more graphical user interfaces.

23. **(New)** An electronic clinical reference and education system, comprising:
an electronic authoring tool comprising a user interface through which an author creates:

a hierarchy of medical reference data including:

a plurality of diagnoses;

a plurality of anatomical regions;

a plurality of pathologies; and

relational data describing relationships between the diagnosis, anatomical regions, and pathologies, each diagnosis defining at least one medical condition that is associated with at least one anatomical region and pathology;

diagnosis information for each of the plurality of diagnoses, wherein the diagnosis information describes general characteristics of each of the plurality of diagnoses;

a plurality of images and text relating to a particular case from the author, the images and text being associated with a particular diagnosis stored in the relational database;

a content database which receives the hierarchy of medical reference data, diagnosis information, and plurality of images and text and storing the hierarchy of medical reference data, diagnosis information, and plurality of images and text in a relational database in a memory, wherein the diagnosis information and plurality of images and text are stored according to the hierarchy of medical reference data so that they are associated with the corresponding diagnosis in the hierarchy of medical reference data; and

a diagnostic reference system including a processor connected to the content database, which:

retrieves and presents the medical reference data stored in the content database in to a user connected to the reference system via a navigable user interface;

receives a request from the user for clinical reference material on a desired subset of the medical reference data in a requested format;

retrieves the requested medical reference data from the content database;
reformats the selected subset of the medical reference data received by the author into the requested format in order to form the requested clinical reference material; and
sends the requested clinical reference material to the user in the requested format.

24. **(New)** The system of claim 23 wherein the diagnostic reference system comprises an expert imaging center protocol advisor for providing imaging protocols to imaging technician.

25. **(New)** The system of claim 23, further comprising a continuing medical education system connected to the diagnostic reference system in that is capable of tracking the amount of time the user spends browsing medical reference data using the navigable user interface.

26. **(New)** The system of claim 25, wherein the continuing medical education system also includes a testing module which is capable of testing the user's knowledge of the medical reference data that the user has browsed, storing the results of the testing, and granting the user continuing medical education credits when the user has achieved a predetermined score on the testing.

27. **(New)** The system of claim 23, wherein the electronic authoring tool further comprises:

a) a master outline authoring tool, which is used by the author to create the hierarchy of medical data,

b) a diagnostic authoring tool, which is used by the author to create the diagnosis information; and

c) a case authoring tool, which is used by the author to enter and edit the plurality of images and text.

28. **(New)** The system of claim 23, wherein the content database comprises a server connected to the Internet and wherein the electronic authoring tool and diagnostic reference system are capable of connecting to the content database via the Internet.

29. **(New)** An electronic clinical reference and education system including a computer having a processor and memory, the system comprising:

an electronic authoring tool comprising a user interface through an author creates:

a hierarchy of medical reference data including:

a plurality of diagnoses;

a plurality of anatomical regions;

a plurality of pathologies;

and relational data describing relationships between the diagnosis, anatomical regions, and pathologies, each diagnosis defining at least one medical condition that is associated with at least one anatomical region and pathology;

diagnosis information for each of the plurality of diagnoses, wherein the diagnosis information describes general characteristics of each of the plurality of diagnoses;

a plurality of images and text relating to a particular case from the author, the images and text being associated with a particular diagnosis stored in the relational database;

a content database including the memory which receives the hierarchy of reference data, diagnosis information, and plurality of images and text and stores the hierarchy of reference data, diagnosis information, and plurality of images and text in a relational database in the memory, wherein the diagnosis information and plurality of images and text are stored according to the hierarchy of reference data so that they are associated with the corresponding diagnosis in the hierarchy of reference data; and

a product deployment process including the processor connected to the content database, which retrieves and presents the medical reference data stored in the content database in to a user connected to the reference system via a navigable user interface; and

a system management process capable of tracking a user's use of the product deployment process and analyzing the user's use of the product deployment process.

30. **(New)** The electronic clinical reference and education system of claim 29, wherein the content management module is further capable of performing an analysis of the plurality of reference content received to from the plurality of authors in order to ensure the integrity and accuracy of the reference content.

31. **(New)** The electronic clinical reference and education system of claim 30, wherein the analysis of the reference content further comprises sending the plurality of reference content received from the author to one or more editors for analysis.

32. **(New)** The electronic clinical reference and education system of claim 29, wherein the electronic authoring tool further comprises:

- a) a master outline authoring tool, which is used by the author to create the hierarchy of medical data,
- b) a diagnostic authoring tool, which is used by the author to create the diagnosis information; and
- c) a case authoring tool, which is used by the author to enter and edit the plurality of images and text.

33. **(New)** The electronic clinical reference and education system of claim 29, wherein the product deployment process comprises a diagnostic reference system, whereby a user may request and receive reference data from the relational database on a desired topic in order to assist in a diagnosis.

34. **(New)** The electronic clinical reference and education system of claim 29, wherein the product deployment process comprises an expert imaging center system, whereby a user may request and receive reference data from the relational database on a desired topic in order to identify an appropriate imaging protocols which may be used in a particular imaging process.

35. **(New)** The electronic clinical reference and education system of claim 29, wherein the product deployment process comprises an continuing education system,

whereby the user requests and is presented with educational reference data.